



Statement in support of

**House Bill 5258 – An Act Implementing the Recommendations of the Program,
Review and Investigations Committee Concerning Scope of Practice
Determinations by Health Care Providers**

**Program Review and Investigations Committee
Public Health Committee**

February 25, 2010

This statement is being submitted on behalf of the 450 members of the New London County Medical Association in support of House Bill 5258 – An Act Implementing the Recommendations of the Program, Review and Investigations Committee Concerning Scope of Practice Determinations by Health Care Providers.

For many years we have come to the legislature and asked them to support or oppose various scope of practice changes for health care practitioners. We have done this because we felt that it was in the best interests of our patients to approach you. So often that has put us in an awkward position of speaking out against health care practitioners with whom we work closely and value and respect as part of the health care team. This is not a position that we have enjoyed being in. The hearings and battles over the scope of practice changes have often become a war of words with legislators being forced to make decisions concerning scope of practice based on antidotal evidence. The bill before you would eliminate most of this.

House Bill 5258 would create a standardized process within the Department of Public Health to determine scope of practice issues. The process would require both sides of an issue to present statistical fact-based evidence on why the scope of practice should or should not be broadened. This evidence would then be interpreted and reviewed by a special committee with its findings then reported to the legislature. This would allow the legislature to make its final decision on scope of practice issues based on fact-based evidence with each side having had a fair and equitable opportunity to present its position.

While we support the bill before you, we do have some concerns with the establishment of the scope committee. After carefully reading the bill, it appears that it is quite possible for there to be a committee formed on an issue impacting physicians and/or a subspecialty with no corresponding subspecialist being on the committee. We ask that this language be changed to clarify this.

We take the responsibility of practicing medicine very seriously and feel that the bill before you creates a more equitable system.

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